

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**



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CONTACT: DARIN THACKER  
(202) 225-3076

## **Herger Applauds Passage of Measure to Strengthen National Energy Policy**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted for the conference report on H.R. 6, the "Energy Policy Act of 2005." The bipartisan measure, which the House passed by a vote of 275 to 156, will reduce our nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil by encouraging increased domestic energy production and greater conservation. The measure now awaits final approval in the Senate. The president has indicated he will sign the bill into law.

"Recent prices at the pump underscore the costly consequences of our nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy," Herger said. "While it is not a perfect bill, on balance this measure takes many positive steps toward increasing domestic energy production, which, in time, will help lower energy prices in the State of California. As such, it had my support.

"The legislation will also boost our economy and foster job growth as more energy will be produced by American companies on American soil," added Herger. "It provides a number of new incentives I strongly supported that encourage development of domestic energy resources. These include, for example, an extension of tax incentives to encourage open-loop biomass, a process by which energy is produced using the byproduct of critical forest thinning - an essential element of restoring our fire-prone forests to good health."

Among its provisions, H.R. 6 will:

- Increase domestic production of renewable energy from resources such as geothermal, wind, hydropower, solar, and biomass
- Increase our refining capacity by establishing a streamlined process for new oil refineries, limiting the number of boutique fuels, and providing flexibility for supply emergencies
- Encourage domestic production of traditional energy sources such as oil and natural gas
- Improve our nation's electricity transmission capability to prevent future blackouts
- Waive the federal oxygenate requirement, which led to the use of MTBE in California and elsewhere

Herger concluded, "Californians know first hand the painful consequences of rolling blackouts that resulted from an inadequate energy supply. This measure will modernize our energy policy to help ensure that similar incidents don't occur in the future."

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!